RAJYA SABHA

Friday, the 9th May, 2003/19 Vaisakha, 1925 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

श्री सभापति : आज मैम्बर्स का मैं इस बात के लिए सहयोग चाहूंगा कि आज 20 क्वेश्चन्स करने हैं।

प्रो. रामगोपाल यादव : आप पूछने वाले ही नहीं हैं।

श्री सभापति : मैं पूछने वालों से कह रहा हूं। प्रश्न संख्या 681

International Symposium on Plant Pathogens

*681. DR. ALLADI P. RAJ KUM
SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether in an International symposium on plant pathogens held at derabad in January, 2003, it was claimed that toxity of cow's urine is equivalent that of several known fungicides and pesticides, etc.;

(b) if so, whether Government have ordered further research in this regard;

(c) the research institutes which have been assigned this work?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) to (c) A ement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) In a National Symposium (not International) on "Plant Pathogens ersity in Relation to Plant Health" held at Osmania University, Hyderabad ing 16-18 January, 2003 it has been claimed by the Scientists of the Faculty of riculture, Annamalai University that Cow's urine was effective against two

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e question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. Alladi P. Rajkumar.

plant pathogens under *in vitro* conditions. However, no fungicides were compared with cow's urine by these workers.

(b) and (c) Similar work has been done at several places in the country but without much success when tested in the field. For example Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack has conducted a replicated field trial to examine the effectiveness of Cow's Urine on bacterial leaf blight - an important disease of rice. It was found that the cow's urine has no effect in controlling the disease under field conditions. However, field evaluation of effectiveness of cow's urine is being continued at a few Institutes of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and State Agricultural Universities *viz* :—

1. Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture, Lucknow ;

2. National Research Centre for Soybean, Indore; and

3. G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar.

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR : Sir, the main purpose of my raising this question is that recently an international symposium was held in Hyderabad on "Plant Pathogens". One of the articles published in that regard has given rise to my question. One of the scientists from Annamalai University of Tamil Nadu, who has presented a paper, claimed that cow's urine has got toxic contents which, can kill fungus. But the answer given by the hon. Minister is that the Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack has conducted a field trial to examine the effectiveness of cow's urine on bacterial leaf blight - an important disease of rice. It was found that the cow's urine has no effect in controlling the disease under field conditions. The scientist who has conducted this research and published papers in this regard strongly believed in it. So, I request the hon. Minister to provide financial assistance for further research and to probe into the issue.

SHRI AJIT SINGH : Sir, the answer states that it was a national symposium, not an international symposium. It also says that no fungicides were compared with cow's urine by these workers. The only thing that was mentioned is that two plant pathogens under test conditions were found effective. As the hon. Member has said, there are three institutes where this research is going on. We know only these three institutes; it may be going on in some more universities and other places.

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR : Sir, I have the proof that it was an international symposium. I will give it to the hon. Minister. Let him clarify whether the international symposium is wrong or he himself is wrong.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shrimati N.P. Durga. She is not present. Shrimati Prema Cariappa.

SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA : Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has got any estimates of annual loss of crop due to insects and fungus.

SHRI AJIT SINGH : No, Sir. There is no such estimate. It varies from place to place, year to year and crop to crop. There is no record that this loss can be attributed only due to pests alone.

Prediction of Earthquake

*682. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA : †
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO :

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a scientist of the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre at Thiruvanantapuram in Kerala has claimed of developing a method of predicting earthquake a number of days in advance;

(b) if so, whether Government have ascertained facts about this invention;

(c) whether this would be utilised in earthquake-prone areas of the country; and

(d) If so, what are other details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

श्री रूमान्डला रामचन्द्रय्या: सभापति महोदय, सारे संसार में और भारत देश में इस काल में भूकम्प का बहुत वातावरण है, उसको रोकने के लिए एक···· (**व्यवधान**) ····

श्री सभापति: रोकने का सवाल ही नहीं है। जब भूकम्प के बारे में कोई भविष्यवाणी हुई ही नहीं तो रोकें कहां से ?

श्री रूमान्डला रामचन्द्रय्या: भविष्यवाणी नहीं है तो कम से कम उससे बचाने के लिए कोई यंत्र तैयार हो रहा है अपने देश में, यह मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी से पूछ रहा हूं ?

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Rumandla Raamachandrayya.